

BS01424

U.S. Application No. 10/036,923 Examiner LE, Art Unit 2171
Amendment After Final in Response to May 17, 2005 Final Office Action

REMARKS

In response to the final Office Action dated May 17, 2005, Assignee respectfully requests reconsideration based on the above claim amendments and the following remarks. Assignee respectfully submits that the pending claims are in a condition for allowance.

The United States Patent and Trademark Office (the "Office") rejected claims 1, 3-14, 17-21, and 23 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, for indefiniteness. Claims 1-14, 16-21, and 23-36 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being obvious over U.S. Patent 6,463,585 to Hendricks *et al.* Examiner Le, however, allowed claims 15 and 22. This amendment accepts the allowed claims. This amendment also amends claims 3-14 to depend from allowed claim 15, and claims 16, 18-21, and 23 are amended to depend from allowed claim 22. The Assignee thus submits that claims 3-16 and 18-23 deserve a Notice of Allowance.

Status of Related Applications

Examiner Le asks for a status of the related applications. The Assignee herein amends paragraph [0002] to reflect the serial numbers of the related applications. Examiner Le, please note that U.S. Application No. 09/496,825 has recently received a Notice of Allowance, and the issue fee has yet to be paid. The Assignee will again amend paragraph [0002] when the patent number is known.

Information Disclosure Statement

Examiner Le, please note a comprehensive IDS was recently submitted. Copies of all non-U.S. Patent citations were included. Examiner Le is respectfully requested to note consideration of each citation in the next office action.

Rejection of Claims under 35 U.S.C. § 112

The United States Patent and Trademark Office (the "Office") rejected claims 1, 3-14, 17-21, and 23 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, for indefiniteness. Independent claims 1

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and 17, however, have been cancelled. Claims 3-14, 18-21, and 23 have been amended to new dependency. The rejection is thus moot.

Rejection of Claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-14, 16-21, and 23-36 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being obvious over U.S. Patent 6,463,585 to Hendricks *et al.* Claims 1, 2, 17 and 24-36 have been cancelled. Claims 3-14 have been amended to now depend from allowed claim 15. Claims 16, 18-21, and 23 are also amended to depend from allowed claim 22. The § 103 rejection is thus moot.

If any issues remain outstanding, the Office is requested to contact the undersigned at (919) 387-6907 or scott@scottzimmerman.com.

Respectfully submitted,



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